

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF 401 APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) Division of Surface Water (DSW) has received an application for, and has begun to consider whether to issue or deny, a Clean Water Act Section 401 certification for a project for annual maintenance dredging of 950,000 cubic yards from the Toledo Harbor Federal Navigation channel and open lake dispose 600,000 cubic yards. The application was submitted by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207-3199. The project is located in the Maumee River Approach and the Lake Approach Channel of Toledo Harbor, City of Toledo, Lucas County. The Buffalo Corps of Engineers' Public Notice Number for this application is 04-1. The Ohio EPA identification number for this project is 037301.

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The discharges from the activity, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of the Maumee River and the Western Basin of Lake Erie. The review of the application will be conducted, and a decision whether to grant or deny the application will be made, in accordance with Chapters 3745-1 and 3745-32 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). In accordance with OAC 3745-1-05, an antidegradation review of the application will be conducted before deciding whether to allow a lowering of the water quality. Other alternatives resulting in lesser or no degradation or lowering of water quality, will be considered by Ohio EPA during the review process.

No exclusions or waivers, as outlined by Paragraph 3745-1-05 (D) of the Antidegradation Rule (effective as of May 1, 1998), apply or may be granted by the Director of Ohio EPA.

Beginning October 24, 2003, copies of the application for the certification and technical support information may be inspected at Ohio EPA-DSW, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 by first calling (614) 644-2001. Applications can be made available at Ohio EPA District Offices by calling the same number.

Ohio EPA will hold a public information session and public hearing relative to issues of lower water quality at 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2003 at City of Toledo Council Chambers, Suite 2100, One Government Center, Toledo, OH 43604. The public hearing will end when all interested parties have had an opportunity to provide testimony related to the projects.

All interested persons are entitled to attend or be represented and give written or oral comments on the proposed project and all persons who do so may, at the discretion of the presiding officer, be questioned by others present. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain additional information that will be considered by the Director of Ohio EPA prior to any further action on the application. Written comments must be received by the Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio, 43216-1049 by the close of business on December 17, 2003. Comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the official record of the hearing.

Persons wishing to be on Ohio EPA's interested parties mailing list for this project, or wish to submit comments for Ohio EPA's consideration in reviewing the application should do so in writing to Ohio EPA-DSW, Attention: Permits Processing Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049 by the close of business on December 17, 2003.